

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 1, 2006, has been considered by the Applicants. Claims 15-17, 25, 27, and 30 have been amended. Claim 26 has been cancelled. Claims 1-8, 13-21, 23-25, and 27-31 remain pending. Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 25-27, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants wish to note that although claims 26 and 27 were included in this rejection, the Examiner made no statements as to why these two claims were indefinite. Claim 26 was cancelled and claim 27 has been amended for reasons completely unrelated to this rejection.

Claims 15-17 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

With regard to claim 27, the Examiner noted two limitations which had insufficient antecedent basis. The first, "said polypyrrrole mixture", has been replaced with --said mixture-- as suggested by the Examiner. Upon review, the second, "said pyrrole polypyrrrole", has been replaced with --polypyrrrole--, not --pyrrole--. Applicants submit this is the proper replacement.

With regard to claim 30, the Examiner noted two limitations which had insufficient antecedent basis. The first, "said conductive polypyrrrole", has been replaced with --said conductive polymer-- as suggested by the Examiner. Upon review, the second, "said pyrrole polypyrrrole", has been replaced with --a polypyrrrole--, not --pyrrole--. Applicants submit this is the proper replacement.

Applicants request withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Drappel (6,391,509). Applicants traverse the rejection.

The Examiner's basis for this rejection was that claim 26 recites that the coating contains additional carbon black with conductive polyaniline or polypyrrole. Therefore, the total amount of conductive polymer may be greater than about 0.1 wt% and read on Drappel. However, for reasons unrelated to this rejection, Applicants have cancelled claim 26.

Applicants request withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection based on Drappel.

The rejection of claim 25 as obvious over the combination of Drappel and Viswanathan was maintained. Applicants traverse the rejection.

The Examiner's basis for this rejection was that claim 26 recites that the coating contains polyaniline attached to lignin in addition to the conductive polymer in a carbon black matrix. Therefore, the total amount of conductive polymer may be greater than about 0.1 wt% and read on Drappel. Applicants have amended claim 25 to clarify that when the conductive polymer selected is polyaniline, the polyaniline may be attached to Lignin. This polymer is described on page 2, lines 4-14, of the specification as LIGO-PANI®. Applicants submit that this amendment shows that the lignin-attached polyaniline is considered the conductive polymer, not an addition to the coating such that the amount is greater than 0.1 wt%.

Applicants request withdrawal of the 103(a) rejection based on Drappel and Viswanathan.

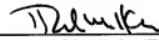
Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 1-8, 13, 14, 18-21, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 31.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is submitted all pending claims (claims 1-8, 13-21, 23-25, and 27-31) are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call Richard M. Klein, at telephone number 216-861-5582, Cleveland, OH.

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